SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

Morning—Evening—Sunday.

JOHN HENRY ZIVER, Editor.
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MARCH 13, 1916.

NOT ALONE WHAT BABY WANTS—BUT WHAT BABIES NEED.

Now that all the infant welfare organizations in South Bend and the country generally, have had their say about better babies, and everyone in town is full of a fine enthusiasm for making baby life happy, the fundamental requirements may be summed up briefly.

Babies need fresh air, night and day. They need sunlight, but their eyes must be protected from direct glare. Babies need quiet sleep and lots of it. Babies need clean surroundings, and clean clothing and clean bodies. Babies need clean, wholesome, nourishing food.

Whether political parties rise or fall, whether there is armament or pacifism, whether anything else is done or is not done, these things must be done for the babies of the nation.

It's not so easy as it seems to get these things. Vast interests are tied up in baby's housing, baby's clothing, baby's food and baby's sleep. But whose pockets are hurt, whose shoes are pinched, what manufacturers have to pay higher wages or install additional machinery, what political pork and graft has to go by the board is of no consequence. The babies must have their due, and every citizen must see that they get it.

IN A NEW LIGHT, THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, former head of the pure food bureau of the department of agriculture, originator of the famous "poison squad" idea, now writing monthly for Good Housekeeping, can always be trusted to say something forceful and worth thinking about. It is of interest here on the eve of Monday night's conclave of the dentists and doctors.

In the last issue of the magazine he asks:

"Do we really want to live? As I mingle with my fellow man, I begin to doubt it. Our conversation is of war, commerce, society, music, clothes, athletics, congress, preparedness taxation, occasionally of books and once in a long while of life. That which is dearest to us we apparently think least about. Where one man is studying how to prolong life thousands are seeking means to put a speedy end to it.

"The advisory committee to the secretary of the navy has suggested building a laboratory costing five million dollars and equipping and manning it, which would probably take about as much more. Its purpose is to study the best methods of killing our fellow men from other countries and preventing our own sailors and citizens from being killed. I am not inclined to protest against this action, but merely to ask, What of guarding against disease and preventing the half-million of preventable deaths every year? Who will provide the five million dollars for that? Ten dollars used for prevention will save a life.

"The American Public Health association, the medical associations, and the dental associations are studying this problem, but are exciting little public interest. People pay less attention to bad teeth in their children than they do to spring styles for them. The mother puts more thought into the decorations of her dining room than she does on the balancing of the rations for her children."

In his youth, observes Dr. Wiley, ideas on the subject of diet were chaotic, many of the traditions of the effects of particular diets erroneous. Nowadays there is much reliable scientific information available. If people want to live, the thing to do is to acquire that information, make sensible use of it, and deliberately eat to live instead of living to eat—which means eating to cripple or kill ourselves.

STENOGRAPHERS GET BUSY—YOUR JOB COMES NEXT IN STANDARDIZING.

An attempt to determine accurately the productive efficiency of stenographers is reported in a recent number of the Literary Digest. The writer found that because there was no standard of efficiency in his office one stenographer was apt to be paid twice as much as another for the same amount of work, while the office work was not done with the highest efficiency.

In order to discover a fair standard a number of things had to be considered, such as the average number of words in a typewritten line, the average number of lines to a page, the average number of stenographic pages to a typed page, the average number of words to a minute in typewriting, and the average number of minutes required to typewrite one page.

With these statistics to go on and two fixed requirements for stenographers—to use pens instead of pencils and to operate the typewriter by the touch system—it was comparatively simple to establish a standard of 100 per cent proficiency.

All the stenographers in his office are graded according to the standard adopted, the writer says. They are then paid for what they actually accomplish at the rate of so much per minute or hour on the basis of the standard average number of words per minute—for example, one cent a minute for 40 words a minute.

This system opened the way for many improvements in efficiency and general satisfaction in the office. Stenographers who were up to standard when copying, but who were below standard when transcribing from short hand notes, were given the work they could do to the best advantage of the whole office. Both employer and employe received a fair return, the one for his money, the other for his work.

It is an interesting and apparently wise plan, one that young men and women studying stenography would do well to think about while they are preparing for future "jobs."

HEAR US WHOOP. WE'RE OUT FOR A NITROGEN-MAKING PLANT.

At the risk of a shower of bricks from the peace-anyhow folks, we're going to whoop it up for that part of the administration's army bill providing for a nitrogen-making plant, making this country absolutely independent of all others in the manufacture of gunpowder.

Our whoop is not wholly a war-whoop. We hope that that plant will have time, between wars, to turn out nitrogen for fertilizing purposes.

We have in hand one packet radish seed, one packet beet seed, one spade, one hoe, one rake, and seventeen circulars declaring that all fertilizers containing much nitrogen have become so high-priced that it's a shame to put them in the ground. Yet, to our eager frost-bitten nostrils there cometh (occasionally) the breath of the glad spring. The lawn steameth in the balmy sunshine (now and then) and the first robin cocketh one eye soon to grab at the early worm. And the spirit to dig and plant boileth over in our soul.

If there is a successful government nitrogen factory, there'll be others. Our atmosphere is loaded with nitrogen; it's free, and we cannot lay it beside our radish and our beet. It must be fixed. More power to the administration or the bill that fixes it, is our whoop.

We mankind are funny creatures, aren't we? Neither we nor anything else can live without fixed nitrogen. There's unlimited quantities of nitrogen in the air about us. We're not impressed with the high importance of fixing it, until we need it in order to blow each other to pieces. You'd think that all of man's study and effort would have been devoted to fixing nitrogen for years past. No, they've studied this life-giver with the view of destroying life. But, really, the fellow who puts cheap nitrogen next to our radish or beet is greater than he who throws a two-ton shell twenty-five miles and wipes out a town.

THOSE AMERICAN SHELLS THAT HAVE KEPT THE BIG WAR HUMMING.

Official information from London and Paris reveals the truth regarding the volume and importance of our munition shipments to the allies.

For a year we have been told, with infinite repetitions and variations, that "the war would have been over long ago if it hadn't been for American shells."

Now David Lloyd-George, the British minister of munitions, announces that "the munitions of war which have been received from the United States form but a small portion of those which have been utilized on the British front." And while the minister refuses officially to give definite figures, for reasons of policy, it is authoritatively stated on the basis of information supplied by his department that "the American munitions actually used by the British forces have been less than eight per cent of the total." Great Britain, with Canada's aid, is now making all ammunition she needs, and could do without our shipments if she chose to. As it is, they go to insure a surplus.

The French ministry of munitions states explicitly that "no American-made shell has been fired from any French gun up to the present time," and that not more than 10 per cent of the shells manufactured in France are made from materials imported from the United States.

Our munition traffic looks huge to us, but it is trivial compared with the output in the belligerent countries. It isn't evident at all that American shells are going to "decide the war." Even our present volume of munition exports is likely to decrease during the present year, as the industries of the warring countries become more fully mobilized.

BRIBING MEN TO BECOME SOLDIERS BY PROSTITUTING THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The military bill now before the senate provides that soldiers who have served their time and received an honorable discharge may be appointed to federal civil service positions without taking the usual examination. All that would be required of them would be a favorable report by a board of army officers.

Such a measure would amount to the virtual abolition of the civil service. The army board, however fine its intentions, would have no particular interest in upholding civil service standards. The tendency would be to make government departments a dumping ground for time-expired soldiers, and departmental efficiency would inevitably be reduced. Certainly the soldiers would not be so well fitted as the men who had prepared themselves by hard study and proved their eligibility by the regular examinations. It would be an unjust discrimination against civilians as well as poor policy from the standpoint of good public service.

Surely it is possible to obtain the requisite recruits for the army without bribery. American soldiers already are treated more liberally than any others in the world. Never in time of peace has there been more regard for the American soldier than there is today. And never, perhaps, has the call of patriotism been stronger.

But if it is necessary to offer any sort of bribe, it should be of some other nature. Why not bribe them with decent pay while they are in the service, rather than after they get out, especially if the latter is to be done at the possible expense of efficient civil service.

REFORM THAT THEY'LL SWALLOW.

Here's a reformer who is edging his way to a warm spot in our heart because he's for a diet that most of us can buy and many of us can raise with spade and hoe.

Mr. Eugene Housel Grubb, "Potato King," of Colorado, calls attention to the fact that there is a great increase in the disease arterio sclerosis coincident with the decline in consumption of potatoes from three and one-half bushels per capita to two bushels. This dread disease, says "King" Grubb, is due to lack of alkalinity in the blood. Eat potatoes!

Too much tobacco—arterio sclerosis, say the professional medics. Too few potatoes—arterio sclerosis, says "King" Grubb. Suffering humanity will turn to Grubb. We never knew a man to give up his tobacco to avoid arterio or any other sclerosis. We know many men who will take a potato recommendation to their bosom. More power to Grubb! We understand that he already has much potatoes.

A Jap fleet in the Mediterranean is among the latest war news. The sinking of the two Japanese ships in the Mediterranean by German submarines was another mistake of the war as it gave Japan the longed for excuse to get in the war game in Europe. Now the French and British fleet will be released for duty in the North sea, where a big naval movement is looked for at any hour.

Mr. Schwab says he gave a bonus to one of his employes amounting to $600,000, as a reward for faithful and efficient service. The question is, would not a gift of $1,000 to 600 lesser employes have produced better results in the long run.

THE MELTING POT

Filled Today by Stuart H. Carroll

WHEN I LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND.
(Had Irving Berlin lived in South Bend.)

I'll leave the school-board to Mister Keller,
With his sell-mates, Sir Rupe and Clem.
And to Jawn Quilhot I'll leave the crusades
Which he ended in Bailey's Pen.
I'll leave the night-time to the Tribune
Or the owl-bird, since both are blind,
I'll leave the moon above to the Main St. Dove,
When I leave the world behind.

* * *

Wot's In a Name?

We have just finished reading a "History of the English Language," by L. A. Chiochiowski.

* * *

"Give me two tickets for "Omar, the Awing Contractor," requested a bright young lady at the Oliver last week.

* * *

Week vs. Weak.

"Is this Baby Week?" inquired Miss Conn Strew, noting the undue celebration around the Kuss homestead.

"Huh," snorted old Cynic L. Kuss, "if you could hear the little brat howling around here at three in the morning, you wouldn't ask, 'Is THIS baby weak'."

* * *

VILLANELLE—Spring.
(By G. D. H.)

When the warm wind sways the trees
From the southland—come this way, dance the nymphs with twinkling knees,
Busy working are the bees,
And the sky reflects the May
When the warm wind sways the trees.
Green with glory in the breeze,
Are the trees by lake and bay,
And the nymphs with twinkling knees,
White with rapture roll the seas,
Free from winter's icy sway
When the warm winds sway the trees.
Mocker sings his mate to please,
Lovers through the gardens stray,
When the warm wind sways the trees
Dance the nymphs with twinkling knees.

AND W. K. told us that he heard the following from two of the present-day athletically inclined young women:

Billy—"How are your toes?"

Patsy—"They're in the pink of condition."

* * *

AH!
(By Stick.)

A youth who had travelled the pace,
Dropped quietly out of the race.
He fell quite a bit,
I know where he hit.
Though, of course, I can't mention the place.

* * *

WANTED,
A NAME—AND A HUSBAND.

He—I think your family name is such a fine one.
She—Do you really? I am getting dreadfully tired of it.
C. A. G.

And Here's a Little Three-let.
(By P. J. S.)

I intended a note,
But it turned out a letter;
To a girlie I wrote
And intended a note,
But I took off my coat
And thought I'd do better;
I intended a note,
But it turned out a letter.

* * *

RAPID CHANGE ARTISTS.
(Plot by C. A. G.)

Tuesday, March 7 — "Jump in, friend. Lot's o' room in my flivver. Yes, I'm going to the polls, and say, friend, don't forget I'm running for commissioner."

Wednesday, March 8—(Same actors)—"Get out the way, you boob, can't a man ride his machine without bumping into a fool like you?"

* * *

AND P. J. S. hollers over to tell us "if your case is weak, let it rest." He adds, as a chaser, this: "If you want to sweep the cobwebs from your brain, why not use a vacuum cleaner?"

* * *

APOLOGIA.

Eyes of brown;—twinkling eyes,
Laughing at us, too;
Stolen out from starry skies,
Tinted by a Spring sunrise,
Wonder not, that in our sighs
We had guessed them blue.

With Other Editors Than Ours

SOME OCCULT CAUSES OF DISEASE.
(New York Sun.)

Slowly but surely enlightment of the public upon the causes of disease has removed superstitious ideas upon the subject, so that today the conviction has been established that sickness is not due to an act of Providence but to ignorance, indolence or neglect, acts of man. Causes hitherto occult are rapidly diminished by their removal through simple but effective means.

As an illustration may be cited a recent investigation by the department of health of the probable infection of toy whistles by the peddlers who sell them after demonstrating their notes with their own lips. Of 12 whistles purchased from pushcarts, five having metal and seven wooden mouthpieces, 99 bacteria colonies developed from the wooden ones. A large variety of micro-organisms was found, many of which were tested upon mice to determine their virulence. Eight of the mice died, five within 24 hours, two within the next 24 hours, and one four days after inoculation. The lesson is obvious.

Toy whistles should be at least boiled before children are permitted to use them. The mucous membrane of the mouth is one of the parts of the body most susceptible to infection. There can be no doubt that many obscure cases of diphtheria and other infectious throat and mouth diseases have been conveyed by this apparently innocent musical instrument. Not alone may the peddler himself be the direct cause of transmission, but the exposure of his wares to the impure dust laden air of his dwelling may convey infectious diseases prevailing in the family to children for whom these toys have been bought.

Another probable cause of disease has been discovered in the research laboratory of the department in the cigar cutter. It is a common practice of smokers to moisten the tip of a cigar before cutting it off. That infection may be transmitted in this way was demonstrated by the presence of diphtheria bacilli on a cigar cutter which had been used on a cigar previously held between the lips of a person ill with diphtheria.

Other bacteria being also obtained from these instruments, the department suggests that moistening of cigars before being cut be dispensed with. Tobacconists will be cautioned not to use any type of cutter in which the knife blade is pressed into a conical socket. The cutter in which the blade comes in contact with the cigar is to be recommended as less dangerous.

While nosophobia or fear of disease should be discouraged and the public should not be needlessly alarmed by apprehension that disease-producing bacteria lurk in many unsuspected places, it may inure to its benefit to point out all known sources of disease.

BRITAIN AND SWEDEN MAKEUP
(Albany, N. Y., Argus.)

Instructions received by Swedish shipping agents in this country indicate, as do Stockholm dispatches, that the difficulties between that country and Britain, which a month ago seemed to portend war, have been satisfactorily adjusted. The details do not appear fully yet, but a look at the controversies as they have developed will suggest the settlements reached so far as we are not specifically informed of them. To stop the supply of contraband for Germany through the mails, as she said, Britain proceeded to detain and examine all mail it could get hold of addressed to Swedish ports. This was a part of the high handed abuse which our government protested with demand for a prompt answer as to whether it was to be continued. Very likely this vigorous action from this side has had useful result in helping to bring about the Anglo-Swedish settlement which is said to cover this mail question. Britain's course was in the face of The Hague convention of 1907 that the postal correspondence of the enemy, whether in a neutral or belligerent ship, should be inviolable. So far as the British excuses met the facts in that the seizures were in her territorial waters they were invalid because of her mining of other waters so that shipping routes were unsafe on them.

Sweden retaliated for these detentions by holding up an English post of 50,000 packages while on its way to Russia. Then England came back by declining to sell coal to Sweden. The latter then refused to allow the export of wood pulp and cellulose to Great Britain.

A part of the settlement is that Sweden is to be allowed to import more coal in future, and on the other hand the embargo on pitprops and other articles, for which Britain depends chiefly on Sweden, is to be raised. And furthermore it appears that there is an arrangement for a monopoly in Sweden for control of imports in transit to neighboring countries. This system has been in force in Holland, Denmark and Norway, but hitherto Sweden has declined to make such an arrangement.

The general effect must be a tightening of the blockade of Germany and so probably against the preponderent sympathy of the Swedish people for that country, having its source largely in antipathy to Russia because of Finland and historical considerations connected with it as well as fear of Russian purposes of aggression in the future. While the socialists and liberals are mostly pro-entente in sentiment, the ministry is strongly the other way, and the issues and the course of events have been such as to naturally make that the popular feeling, which is also said to have been worked up by German agents in large numbers operating in the country.

If Britain has at last had sense enough to cease stimulating this pro-German feeling, it has been by simply doing the fair thing.

MEDICAL TRIUMPHS.
(Ogden, Utah, Examiner.)

The war doesn't check all wholesome progress, by any means. In the realms of surgery and medicine it is promoting progress—for the very reason that doctors have more material to work on, and can apply their theories more freely than under ordinary conditions.

In the notable advance made since the war began, American physicians have played a conspicuous part. A nurse returned from service with the American ambulance corps in France tells how the medical profession in France has been astonished at the daring feats performed by our surgeons. They have been particularly successful in grafting bones to prevent disfigurements. Many of the soldiers are shot in the face and hideously mutilated. In a great many cases their jaws are shot away. The surgeons have actually been making "new faces" for these unfortunates, removing bones from slain men or from amputated limbs and using them to build up shattered jaws and other features.

It will be recalled that Dr. Alexis Carrell, American winner of the Nobel prize for medicine, a pioneer in the transplanting of bone and muscular tissue, has been working in Paris since the war began, and his marvelous achievements have doubtless been the inspiration of the whole American corps.

In curative and preventive medicine our own physicians have rendered service just as notable. The credit for cleaning up disease ridden Serbia and eliminating the deadly typhus plague is given chiefly to American doctors. And their efforts have by no means been confined to aiding the allies. There are many skilled Americans serving in the German and Austrian armies where their skillful and unselfish labors have won just as high praise.

The whole world will gain from the lessons learned in this great war clinic. And we, apparently, shall gain most of all; for we are likely to get benefit without having to pay the price in dead, sick and wounded soldiers as subjects for the experiments.

A WESTERN HEALTH PROBLEM.
(Terre Haute, Ind. Star.)

California has a bill before congress that provides for the granting of a subsidy for approved institutions in that state that care for non-resident tuberculosis cases. The problem that inspires this measure is a serious one not only in California, but in North Carolina, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and other states to which tuberculosis victims are accustomed to go in search of health.

There is no law to prevent such persons going where they will, and it is the common testimony of people familiar with the situation that the great majority postpone their venture into a milder climate until too late; also that a large number come with insufficient funds. It is asserted that nearly one-sixth of the deaths from tuberculosis in south western cities are of those who have lived less than 30 days in the place.

The figures of the Los Angeles county hospital show fewer than 50 state residents out of 1,000 patients, and it is stated that from 40 to 90 per cent of all the deaths from tuberculosis in the states named are of destitute persons from other states. There is an annual migration of from 10,000 to 15,000 tuberculosis persons to the western and southern states. Western Texas is said to have about 30,000 such non-residents at this time.

Each of these states has been forced to take measures for protecting the health of their own citizens and that of the uninfected traveling public, and tuberculosis sufferers are no longer admitted freely to hotels and boarding places as formerly. Such precautions have not yet been taken on railroads, but public opinion will doubtless compel these in time. It's hardly likely that a measure like the one proposed will become a law, but it might be made possible for any state which has become a Mecca for these sufferers to recover the cost of the care of the indigent ones from the states from which they came. Certainly it is unjust that the refuge states should bear the burden.

British medical authorities are pointing out that since the war the proportion of boy babies is increasing. One shows for each 1,000 girl babies the following number of boys: In January and February, 1915, 1,032; March, 1,043; April and June, 1,055. This reads all right and is believed, but when the report goes on to say that "Advance records indicate that the ratio will be even greater in 1916," we refuse to take stock in the doctor's "advance information."—Salem, Ore., Capital Journal.

The theory that a boy prizes his first pair of red top boots above everything else in the world doesn't always work out. A Fredonia real estate man put it to a test a few years ago by offering a boy a gold watch and chain for the new red boots. To his dismay the boy sat down on the floor and pulled off the precious boots. The real estate man couldn't back out of the bargain, and as the boots were of no use to him, he returned them to the boy along with the watch and chain.—Kansas City Star.

A middle-aged lady was finally engaged to be married. She had false teeth and hadn't told the man about them. Feeling somewhat guilty, she wrote to the editor of a newspaper, asking whether she ought to tell her future husband that she had false teeth before or after they were married. The reply was: "Get married, and keep your mouth shut."—Atchison, Kansas, Globe.

A New York lawyer's wife testifies that by applying the acid test she found her wedding ring to be brass. It can only be said that any wife so devoid of sentiment as to subject her wedding ring to an acid test deserves to have her scepticism confirmed by finding brass instead of gold.—Providence Bulletin.